

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST CONDITIONS FOR STAYING IN GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: FOR THE SOCIALISTS TO REMAIN PART OF THE GOVERNING MAJORITY, PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO HAS INDICATED IN A PRESS INTERVIEW THAT THE DC MUST REPLACE FANFANI AND MOVE LEFTWARD, ABANDON THE CENTER-LEFT FORMULA "AS A FRAMEWORK OF ALLIANCES", AND ASSOCIATE THE COMMUNISTS TO THE GOVERNING MAJORITY IN SOME MANNER. DEMARTINEO CANNOT SEE HOW THE SOCIALISTS, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, CAN ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THE COMMUNISTS IN THE OPPOSITION.
END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) SECRETARY DEMARTINO HAS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED IN PRESS INTERVIEW (CORRIERE DELLA SERA, JULY 16) THE CONDITIONS DC MUST MEET IF PSI IS TO REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. THOUGH HE FREQUENTLY RESORTED TO INDIRECT PHRASING, SOCIALIST CONDITIONS WHICH EMERGES CLEARLY ARE:

A. THE REPLACEMENT OF FANFANI AS SECRETARY AND COMPLETE RENEWAL OF POLICY AND PRACTICE (I.E., A SHIFT TO THE LEFT).

B. ABANDONMENT OF THE FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT FORMULA
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"AS A FRAMEWORK OF ALLIANCES."

C. THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PCI TO THE MAJORITY IN SOME MANNER. ON THIS POINT DEMARTINO SAID:

"THOUGH THERE ARE STILL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BETWEEN US AND THE COMMUNISTS...THIS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT ONE MUST NOT POSE NOW THE POLITICAL NECESSITY OF PARTICIPATION, EVEN IF INDIRECT, OF THE PCI IN THE (GOVERNING) MAJORITY, IN FORMS YET TO BE DEFINED. OUR POSITION IN THIS REGARD...SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE...THERE IS A COMMON ELEMENT WHICH IS TO CONSIDER USEFUL AND POSTIVE A MEETING BETWEEN THE FORCES OF THE LEFT AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE SMALLER PARTIES, AS LONG AS NO ONE TAKES REFUGE IN PREJUDICIAL EXCLUSIONS. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS CERTAIN THAT, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I CANNOT SEE HOW THE PSI, WHICH EXPRESSES DEMANDS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE COUNTRY WHICH ARE THE SAME AS THOSE VOICED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY, CAN ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP (BETWEEN THE LEFT AND THE DC), AND WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN THE OPPOSITION."

D. MODIFICATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY, MORE SERIOUS PLANNING, GIVE PRIORITY TO SOCIAL RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL CONSUMPTION, ADOPT A NEW MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT, GIVE PRIORITY TO JOB--PRODUCING METAL MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES, MAKE USE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY, BUT SUBORDINATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS TO THOSE OF THE WHOLE, BREAK THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DEUDAL POLITICAL INTERESTS (DC'S) AND STATE-CONTROLLED INDUSTRY, IMPLEMENT THE GREAT REFORMS, INCLUDING REFORMS OF FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE MILITARY, THE POLICE AND THE MAGISTRACY, GENERAL DEFENSE OF THE PUBLIC ORDER AGAINST NEOFASCISM WITHOUT INDULGENCE OF ANY WUTHORITARIAN TEMPTATIONS.

2. PSI CONCEPTION OF WHAT NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH PCI SHOULD BE WAS INDICATED BY DEMARTINO'S DEFENSE OF PSI POLICLY IN FORMATION OF NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. "OUR INITIATIVE IS AIMED AT BRINGING DOWN OLD OPPOSITIONS...IT IS TRUE WE HAVE IMPORTANT CASES REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE PCI FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE LEFT, BUT THIS HAS OCCURRED AFTER THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE...WE GO TO THESE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETINGS (FOR THE FORMATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS) DETERMINED TO REFUSE CLOSURES (TO THE PCI) WHICH AS BASED ON DEBATABLE IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS RATHER THAN PROGRAMS." DEMARTINO CITED THE REGION OF LOMBARDY (MILAN AREA) AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN THE DC IS MORE "OPEN." (TODAY'S PRESS CARRIES REPORTS THAT THE DC HAS AGREED TO OFFER THE COMMUNISTS THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND FORMAL PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION OF A

PROGRAM.)

3. DEMARTINO HAS CELLED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 24-26
WHICH WILL CONSIDER RESULTS OF DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING.

4. COMMENT: (EMBASSY WILL COMMENT FOLLOWING EMBOFF MEETING WITH
DEMARTINO JULY 17.)VOLPE

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